IFPRI Project Abstract

High-Fidelity Numerical Modeling of Spray Droplet Formation

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Project Start Date: 01 September, 2022
Abstract Date: 16 May, 2025

Project Objective:

Assess and enhance the ability of a novel multi-scale, high-fidelity computational modeling framework for spray formation to predict drop size and velocity distributions in high-viscosity and non-Newtonian liquid atomization systems.

Approach:

We use a novel multi-scale computational modeling framework for predicting sprays within the open-source NGA2 code based on:

- Sub-grid scale tracking of thin interfacial structures such as ligaments and films,
- Physics-based modeling of the surface tension-dominated dynamics of these thin structures and their break-up into Lagrangian droplets.

Recent Results:

Since May 2023, 3 main tasks were accomplished:

1- A modeling strategy for non-Newtonian liquids has been implemented & validated.

2- A volume-filtered multi-scale modeling framework for two-phase flows with break-up was formalized. This framework exploits recent innovations in Eulerian interface capturing at the sub-grid scale that enable the accurate and efficient tracking of films & ligaments below the mesh size.

3- The critical sub-grid scale terms that need closure models were identified. For films, these include surface tension, hole formation, rim retraction, and droplet shedding from retracting rims. We have provided a closure for the surface tension force in sub-grid scale films, have introduced a simple strategy for hole formation, and have proposed an algebraic closure for capturing rim retraction.

We have used these models to simulate pressure swirl atomization in a realistic injector. For the first time, break-up is induced from physical models and not numerical errors, leading to significant improvements in drop size predictions.

Next Steps:

The renewal proposal focuses on ligament capturing and modeling.